

REMARKS

Following entry of Applicants' Amendment dated 8 September 2000, Claims 1-15, 21-36, 40, 41, 44, 50-52 and 57-67 are pending and under consideration. With this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 57 and 61, without prejudice, and amended Claims 1-4, 8-14, 21, 24-28, 32-36, 40, 44, 50, 52, and 58-60. Thus, after entry of this Supplemental Amendment, Claims 1-15, 21-36, 40, 41, 44, 50-52 and 58-60 and 62-67 are pending in the application.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more related, continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application(s).

For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the claims as pending after entry of this Supplemental Amendment is appended as Exhibit A.

THE AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 50, 52 and 58-60 have been amended to recite with greater particularity certain features of Applicants invention. The remaining claims have been amended to update their dependencies to reflect the cancellation of Claims 57 and 61.

The amendments are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, the amendments of Claims 1 are supported at page 27, lines 30-31. The amendments of Claims 50, 52 and 60 are supported at page 12, lines 23-24.

Amended Claim 58 is supported by original Claim 9. The "substantially irreversible" immobilization of amended Claim 59 is supported at page 17, lines 2-4, wherein covalent immobilization and immobilization *via* pairs of binding molecules such as biotin/streptavidin are taught. Skilled artisans would recognize the immobilization effected by these types of interactions as being substantially irreversible. Plasma activation of porous substrates is taught in the specification at page 20, line 17 through page 21, line 28.

As all of the amendments are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed, the amendments do not constitute new matter. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is requested.

CONCLUSION

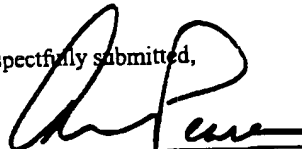
Amended Claims 1-15, 21-36, 40, 41, 44, 50-52, 58-60 and 62-70 are believed to satisfy all of the criteria for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore kindly requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Supplemental Amendment. However, the Office is authorized to charge any required fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Date

11/17/00

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure (Exhibit A)